

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01463 232317Z
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GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJECT: CANADIAN STATEMENT ON LOS CONFERENCE

1. DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ISSUED MARCH 22
FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE ON CANADIAN POSITION ON LOS
CONFERENCE:

"THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE
WILL REPRESENT A CRUCIAL STEP IN PREPARING A NEW CON-
VENTION OF THE SEAS. ALTHOUGH THE LAST SESSION PRO-
DUCED MORE RESULTS THAN THE PREVIOUS ONES, MANY SENSITIVE
AND CONTENTIOUS MATTERS HAVE STILL NOT BEEN SETTLED,
AND SOME MAJOR DISAGREEMENTS REMAIN ON THE ISSUE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEABED REGIME.

"THE SIXTH SESSION, HOWEVER, ENABLED DISCUSSIONS TO
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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 01463 232317Z

TAKE PLACE ON MOST OF THE UNRESOLVED ISSUES AND, IN
CERTAIN MAJOR AREAS, THE CONFERENCE WAS CLOSER THAN
EVER TO REACHING A CONSENSUS. THESE DISCUSSIONS
RESULTED IN THE DRAFTING OF A NEW INFORMAL COMPOSITE
NEGOTIATING TEXT. THIS DOCUMENT REFLECTS CANADA'S
OBJECTIVES IN SEVERAL AREAS: THE TWELVE-MILE TERRITORIAL
SEA IS UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED, THE SPECIAL ANTI-POLLUTION

MEASURES IN THE ARCTIC ARE RECEIVING INCREASED INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT, SPECIAL MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN WITH REGARD TO SALMON CONSERVATION, AND A CONSENSUS IS EMERGING AROUND THE CONCEPT OF THE 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE, WHICH SUPPORTS CANADA IN ESTABLISHING THE 200-MILE EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONE.

"HOWEVER, THIS ACHIEVED PROGRESS MUST BE LAID OUT IN A GENUINE AND UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED CONVENTION. BUT THE CONFERENCE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ADOPT SUCH AN INSTRUMENT UNTIL IT HAS SOLVED THE MORE DIFFICULT ISSUES, PARTICULARLY THOSE PERTAINING TO THE SEABED MINING REGIME. CANADA HAS TAKEN PART IN SEVERAL INFORMAL MEETINGS IN ORDER TO ADVANCE NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS ISSUE. DISCUSSIONS ON THIS TOPIC AT THE SEVENTH SESSION ARE NEVERTHELESS EXPECTED TO BE DIFFICULT AS WELL AS IN CERTAIN OTHER AREAS, SUCH AS ACCESS OF LAND-LOCKED AND GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED COUNTRIES TO THE LIVING RESOURCES OF COASTAL STATES, THE PROVISIONS FOR SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES PERTAINING TO THE SOVEREIGNTY OF COASTAL STATES OVER RESOURCES, THE DEFINITION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AND THE RELATED ISSUE OF REVENUE SHARING AND THE DELIMITATION OF THE MARITIME BOUNDARIES BETWEEN ADJACENT OR OPPOSITE STATES.

"IN VIEW OF THE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS MADE TO DATE, AND
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PAGE 03 OTTAWA 01463 232317Z

WITHOUT MINIMIZING THE PROBLEMS WHICH REMAIN TO BE SOLVED, CANADA IS DETERMINED TO OBTAIN THE LONG AWAITED GLOBAL CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA AND ITS DELEGATION WILL BE ACTIVE IN THIS RESPECT DURING THE FORTHCOMING SEVENTH SESSION." ENDERS

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